

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /037 W

-----131010Z 027822 /22/21

R 130430Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0967

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0334

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 LINE 7)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, AF, KN

SUBJ: AFGHANISTAN SIGNS CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA

1. AFGHAN MEDIA HAVE ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF A CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AFGHAN REPUBLIC (GOA) AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) ON JANUARY 10. ALTHOUGH ENGLISH-LANGUAGE KABUL TIMES HEADLINE ANNOUNCES "AFGHANISTAN, DPRK EXPAND CULTURAL TIES," A SENIOR MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE OFFICIAL HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THIS IS "THE STANDARD CULTURAL AGREEMENT THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS CONCLUDED WITH ALL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS RELATIONS". NO DESCRIPTION OF THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED.

2. SIGNING APPEARS DESIGNED TO BALANCE GOA'S CONCLUDING SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) 22 NOVEMBER 1976. ACCORDING TO ROK AMBASSADOR DPRK HAD BEEN PRESSING CULTURAL AGREEMENT UPON AFGHAN FOR PAST ONE AND ONE-HALF YEAR.

3. IN EARLY NOVEMBER MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
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AFFAIRS PROTOCOL OFFICE TOLD EMBASSY THAT THERE WAS PRESENTLY ONLY ONE NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE HERE, AND THIS SEEMED TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OBSERVATIONS MADE AT DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS. KABUL TIMES PHOTOGRAPH OF JANUARY 12, HOWEVER, SHOWS AT LEAST TWO NORTH KOREANS IN ADDITION TO

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SONG CHANG LYUL, WHO SIGNED
THE NEW AGREEMENT. THIS CONFIRMS OUR OBSER-
VATIONS THAT DPRK STAFF IN KABUL HAS RECENTLY
INCREASED, BUT NAMES OF STAFF MEMBERS IN
ADDITION TO CHARGE NOT KNOWN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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